GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2695
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM EPILEPSY
R.L. JALAPPA;RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of people suffering from epilepsy in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the neuro scientists of India have developed any method of treatment of epilepsy through electric waves;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to undertake a National Programme on epilepsy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Based on a number of house to house community surveys conducted in different parts of the country, including a large population study by the National Institute of mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, it is estimated that there are 6-8 million people suffering from epilepsy in India, the rate being 5-10 per 1000 population. While State-wise figures are not available, the data from the above surveys indicate that there are no significant differences between the States.

(b) and (c) There is no Electric wave treatment of epilepsy either in India or abroad. The treatment of epilepsy consists of giving anti epileptic drugs for periods of 2 to 3 years on a continuous and regular basis. It has been demonstrated that 80% of the people with epilepsy can be free from epilepsy and can lead a normal and useful life. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme being implemented by the Government also contributes in reducing the incidence of epilepsy.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal, at present, for undertaking a National programme on Epilepsy.